

are cultivated, but on the other hand there is a very rich collection of *Cacti* and succulent plants, especially from the West Indies, Mexico and South America. The botanical museum is in the garden, and the lower part of this contains a spacious, very elegant theatre for the lectures on botany and agriculture; in the upper story are the botanical library with the herbaria, as well as a room for a collection of models and instruments of husbandry, woods and the like, which is yet but insignificant, but for the enlargement of which the present Professor of Agriculture, D. Pascual Asensio, labours with great zeal. The richly-bound botanical library contains but few new works; however, the herbaria of Cavanilles, Ruiz, Pavon and others are here, the first of which I studied particularly. From deficiency of funds, the Madrid garden is in correspondence with no foreign gardens except those of Paris and Montpellier. During my sojourn in Madrid, I made a day and a half's excursion to the famous Escorial, situated at the foot of the Sierra de Guadarrama, less for the sake of botanizing than to see this palace so remarkable in historical associations. From this excursion however to the richly watered, in part well-wooded, granitic Sierra, next to the Sierra Nevada and the Pyrenees the highest mountain of Spain, some parts being at that time covered with snow, I am persuaded that it would well repay a longer sojourn. In a single half-hour's excursion which I made in the immediate vicinity of the Escorial, I found many interesting plants, of which I may mention *Ranunculus Carpetanus*, Reut., *Dianthus laricifolius*, Reut., *Sedum gypsicolum*, R., and *Jasione sessiliflora*, R.

On the 6th of July I left Madrid and betook myself to Aranjuez, from whence I think of setting out this evening towards Granada. Well would it recompense a longer stay, since both the very luxuriant vegetation of the neighbouring shores of the Tagus and the surrounding gypsum hills promise a rich harvest. Aranjuez is particularly remarkable for its woods. Giant planes, innumerable elms, limes, beeches, oaks and other dicotyledonous trees, clothe for leagues the shores of the stream, on which occur, among other plants, *Helminthia echioides* and *Chlora perfoliata*, L. *Kentrophyllum lanatum*, DeC., *Picnomon Acarna*, DeC., *Centaurea Calcitrapa*, L., *Carlina corymbosa*, L., are extremely frequent, in company with *Heliotropium europæum*, L., and *Tribulus terrestris*, L., on waste places, while the neighbouring gypsum hills are clothed with *Frankenia pulverulenta*, Mill., *Machrochloa tenacissima*, Kth., many *Resedaceæ* and *Labiataæ*.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Contributions towards a Fauna and Flora of the County of Cork.

London, 1845. 8vo.

THE appearance of the first local fauna and flora of a part of Ireland gives us great satisfaction, since we trust that it will soon be followed by similar accounts of other parts of the island, and that thus

we shall attain that knowledge of its native productions of which we are still so deficient. The volume before us is published by the Cuvierian Society of Cork, and forms "part of a series of communications on the local history of the county of Cork, which have from time to time been communicated" to that Society, and were also furnished to the British Association at its Cork meeting. They are now published "in consequence of a wish which was expressed by several Members of the Natural History Section of the Association."

The contents of the volume are—

1. The FAUNA, Div. *Vertebrata*, by Dr. J. R. Harvey, recording—Mammalia 24, Birds 167, Reptiles 1, Amphibia 1, Fishes 95—total 288. *Vultur fulvus*, new to Britain, was taken in Cork harbour and kept alive for some time in Lord Shannon's park: the specimen is now in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin. *Turdus Whitei*, *Glareola pratincola* and *Naucrates ductor* are new to the Irish fauna. The *Black Rat* (*Mus rattus*) is marked as "rare," and the *Brown Rat* (*M. decumanus*) is omitted. Can it be that the latter has not found its way to Cork?

2. The FAUNA, Div. *Invertebrata*, Classes *Mollusca*, *Crustacea* and *Echinodermata*, by J. D. Humphreys, Librarian of the Royal Cork Institution. It contains, of freshwater Mollusca, Gasteropoda 54, Conchifera 5; of marine Mollusca, Gasteropoda 68, Acephala 106, Annelida 9; of Crustacea 59; of Echinodermata 26.

3. The FLORA, under the title of 'The Botanist's Guide for the County of Cork,' is written by Dr. Thomas Power, and records 885 Phænogamic and 936 Cryptogamic plants, forming a total of 1821.

We have thus a very rich flora, compared with the whole flora of Ireland as shown in the 'Fl. Hibernica,' where the number of species is, Phænog. 994, Crypt. 992—total 1986. We have not space to enter minutely into the examination of this list, which is so highly creditable to the industry of the botanists of Cork. It is probable that the *Cuscuta europæa* found "on flax," and the *C. epilinum* are identical. *Orobanche minor* "on ivy" is doubtless *O. barbata*. *Primula elatior*: is this the plant of Smith or Jacquin? *Polygonum maritimum*: all the Irish specimens so called which we have seen belong to *P. Raii*; may not this also be the case on the coast of Cork? *Abies excelsa* is introduced upon the authority of the following quotation from the works of the late Dr. C. Smith: "*Abies mas*, *Theophrasti*: this grows wild in the rocky mountains which divide this county from Kerry." That is a district well deserving of a careful examination, and should the botanical explorer indeed find the spruce in a wild state, he will be gloriously repaid for his trouble. *Trichomanes speciosum*: we understand that the locality given on the authority of Mr. Babington is not correct, and that he did not find the plant in the county of Cork.

In conclusion, we would recommend the work to those naturalists who may purpose visiting the south of Ireland, and also to all who are interested in the geographical distribution of our native animals and plants.